30

AN AFFECTIONATE

APPEAL TO CHRISTIAN BENEVOLENCE,

FOR THE

PROMOTION OF EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY

AMONG THE

INDIANS AND DESTITUTE SETTLERS IN CANADA,

BY THE

REV. THADDEUS OSGOOD, A.M.

MR. OSGOOD has been itinerating seventeen years in the provinces of Canada, and on the frontiers of the United States, distributing Bibles, Testaments, and Elementary Tracts, giving moral and religious instruction to the poor, establishing schools, particularly Sunday Schools, and setting up small libraries wherever practicable.

After Mr. Osgood had laboured in this destitute field five years he visited England in the year 1813, under the patronage of the Governor in Chief, Sir George Prevost, and collected £1,800. partly for an asylum for the poor, and partly for the instruction of orphans and destitute children. The sum of £100. which was given towards the asylum has been paid to the Treasurer of the House of Industry in Montreal; the sum of £1,700. which was collected for the education of the destitute was vested in the British funds, under the care of a Committee appointed in London for that purpose; of which John Inglis, Esq. was Treasurer: at whose death Joseph Reyner, Esq. succeeded to the same trust. By the Treasurer's books the different items of expenditure will appear, to the satisfaction of all, who may wish to examine the same. The Committee will embrace an early opportunity of publishing their report, which it is hoped will meet the approbation of every donor.

Though it was thought adviseable that the interest of the money only should be used, so pressing have been the importunities in behalf of the poor in Canada, more than half of the original fund has been expended, *but not in vain;* for, in consequence of this effort, it is calculated that more than Two THOUSAND children have been brought under elementary and moral instruction: assistance has been granted to two Masters, who were trained up under the British and Foreign School Society, and sent out to organize and conduct schools in Canada. In these schools a number of young men have been qualified to become teachers; two of whom are sons of an Indian Chief. So very anxious are some of our Red Brethren of the forest to receive instruction, that one of the Chiefs offered to give up his own house for a school-room.

Mr. Osgood comes to this country under the patronage, and by the recommendation, of the British and Canadian School Society, of which Earl Dalhousie is Patron. The following is a testimonial from their Secretary.

"*Montreal, Feb.* 23, 1825.

"The Committee of the British and Canadian School Society feel much pleasure in bearing testimony to the indefatigable, zealous, and successful efforts of the Rev. Thaddeus Osgood, in the moral and religious improvement of the rising generation of this extensive colony.

"The important and interesting objects—viz. the cause of the poor neglected Indians in the Canadas, as well as the present urgent necessity of training up and qualifying, in a central school in this country, young persons to be teachers, to supply the destitute settlements—they strongly recommend to the Christian public.

"WILLIAM LUNN, *Secretary of the British and Canadian School Society.*"

The great object of Mr. Osgood's visit to this country, is to obtain funds for civilizing and christianizing the Canadian Indians, and training teachers for the new settlements, many of which are in a most deplorable condition, with regard to the means of instruction. The time is fast approaching, when these Canadian Indians must either be civilized and christianized, or extirpated; for their means of subsisting by the chace must soon be entirely cut off, their reservations being almost surrounded by the white people.

Mr. Osgood has published an outline of a plan for the instruction of the Indians, which is designed to unite *industry* with *education*, both of which are essential, and ought ever to go hand in hand, in every system of education, especially among the middle and lower classes of society. A subscription has been commenced in Canada towards the promotion of this object. Subscribers and donors residing at a distance are permitted to vote by proxy.

The following is an extract from the plan proposed. To be called

THE UNION SEMINARY, AND SCHOOL OF INDUSTRY,

Designed principally to qualify and provide for Teachers among the Indians and in the new Settlements of Canada.

Art. I.—The Institution to be under the management of a board, consisting of 12 Trustees, elected by the subscribers and donors, with power to appoint a Treasurer, Secretary, and other officers, and make all necessary bye-laws and regulations for the complete management of the Institution. This body may fill vacancies which may occur by death or removal. Five to form a quorum for business.

II.—The subscription of one guinea paid annually in advance, or a donation of ten guineas, will entitle the individual to the privilege of voting and recommending a pupil once in four years. The person, or company, that may give annually five guineas, may carry two votes and recommend to the Seminary one pupil every year, and in the same proportion for larger sums.

III.—The branches of learning to be taught in this Seminary shall be Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, and particularly the knowledge of the Holy Scriptures; also of agriculture and useful trades.

IV.—The term of four years to be the period of instruction in this Seminary, but any who may apply for admission, if found qualified, shall be raised to the class, for which they may be prepared.

V.—All the members of this Institution shall be required to labour daily four hours, study eight, and have twelve for sleep, refreshment, devotion, and relaxation.

VI.—Particular attention shall be paid to the morals of the youth, but nothing shall ever be taught in this Seminary to interfere with religious liberty or the rights of conscience.

VII.—All members of the Institution shall be required to keep holy the Sabbath, punctually attending some place of public worship; also to reading the Bible and prayers, morning and evening, every day, unless prevented by sickness or necessary absence from home.

VIII.—If at any time, in the judgment of the legislature, the Trustees should betray their trust, or pervert the object of the Institution, their charter may be taken away, and the funds applied to the purchase of Bibles and implements of husbandry for the Indians of Canada.

N. B. This Institution is to be located by the Trustees, in the place most convenient to the largest settlement of Indians; and, as soon as good teachers can be provided, and the necessary buildings erected, an elementary school will be opened, under the care of a Sub-committee, in connection with every Indian tribe and destitute settlement in Canada.

A petition for a charter, and a grant of land for this establishment, has been sent up to the two branches of the legislature of Upper Canada; it has been read and committed. The Hon. and Rev. Dr. Strachan, who is one of the Council, has examined this plan, and proposed several small alterations, which have been made in the above copy: he observed, that one of the principal obstacles to granting such a charter, would be the fear of a deficiency in the means of pecuniary support, as Government was in debt, and therefore could make no grant of money; but it was observed, in reply, that a respectful appeal to British benevolence would probably remove that objection.

This outline has been examined, and the following testimonial, from Chief Justice Reid and Justice Pyke, will enable the public to judge of the practicability and importance of the design.

"We, the undersigned, having been long acquainted with the Rev. T. Osgood, and having a knowledge of his indefatigable and useful exertions, in diffusing religious instruction through the remote and infant settlements of this widely extended country, feel it a duty not only to give him this testimonial, but to solicit for him the support, aid, and countenance of every denomination of Christians, in his meritorious efforts to spread the knowledge of the Gospel, nor can we but add our entire approbation of his proposed plan for the instruction and relief of the now almost destitute Indian tribes of North America, nor refrain to express our wish, that so benevolent a design may meet that support and success it so truly deserves, and which we consider Mr. Osgood so well and peculiarly qualified to carry into faithful execution.

"JAMES REID, *Chief Justice, King's Bench, Montreal.*
"GEORGE PYKE, *Justice, King's Bench.*"

"*Montreal, 22d February*, 1825."

The following is a testimonial written by the Rev. Archdeacon Stuart, of Kingston, Upper Canada.

" The Rev. Thaddeus Osgood, a Minister of the Protestant Church, has been labouring, for several years, in this province, as an itinerant preacher. He preaches the Gospel in remote and destitute places, and is actively employed in dispersing religious tracts in places which missionaries but seldom visit, and to which their labours cannot frequently be extended.

" His services are useful, as preparatory to the more frequent visits of missionaries, and their ultimate establishment.

" I recommend him to the notice and co-operation of all who are zealous in advancing the cause of Christianity.

" GEORGE OKILL STUART,
" *Missionary from the Society for Propagating the Gospel.*"

" *Kingston, Upper Canada, February* 7, 1825."

Among the numerous testimonials and recommendations, which Mr. Osgood has brought from the United States in favour of his character and design, are the names of the Rev. Drs. Mason, Milner, M'Auley, and Spring, of New York; also the Presidents of Yale and Dartmouth Colleges, and several other ministers of different denominations, known to many in this country.

The Rev. Messrs. Codman and Dwight, now travelling in this country, have given him the following recommendation :

" We, the Subscribers, Ministers of the Gospel, in Boston and the vicinity, in North America, have long been personally acquainted with the Rev. Thaddeus Osgood, and with his indefatigable efforts to do good, and cordially recommend him to the benevolent regards of the British public.

" JOHN CODMAN,
" S. E. DWIGHT."

" *London, May* 10, 1825."

The testimonials and documents in the hands of Mr. Osgood (residing at the Misses Towers, Jacob's Passage, Barbican,) have been examined by a number of clergymen and dissenting ministers of different denominations in London, and his object warmly recommended, as well deserving the countenance and encouragement of British Christians of all denominations.

Among the contributors to this object are the names of the Earl of Liverpool, Earl of Harrowby, Lord Bexley, Lord Calthorpe, the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rev. Dr. Steinkopff, the Rev. J. H. Stewart, the Rev. E. Bickersteth, the Rev. Josiah Pratt, the Rev. H. G. Watkins, the Rev. Daniel Wilson, Samuel Mills, Esq., Henry Drummond, Esq., B. Shaw, Esq., John Mortlock, Esq., Joseph Butterworth, Esq. M. P., Luke Howard, Esq., L. Haslope, Esq. and others of different denominations. It is hoped that many will go and do likewise.

That the Public may be satisfied with respect to the proper application of the funds which may be collected, the following gentlemen have kindly offered to act as Trustees :

" We, whose names follow, have consented, at the request of Mr. Osgood, to take the charge of the monies collected, and to superintend, as far as the circumstances of the case will admit, the due application of the same, to the purposes intended.

" JOHN MORTLOCK.	" LUKE HOWARD.	" S. MILLS.
" W. ALERS HANKEY.	" JOSEPH REYNER.	" ROBERT STEVEN.
" W. ALLEN.	" LANCELOT HASLOPE.	" T. PELLATT."

" *London, June,* 1825."

*** The above mentioned Trustees will receive donations for this object. Also Messrs. Hatchard and Son, 187, Piccadilly; Mr. J. Nisbet, 21, Berners Street, Oxford Street; Messrs. Black, Young, and Young, 2, Tavistock Street; Sam's Royal Subscription Library, opposite to St. James's Palace; Messrs. Joseph Butterworth and Son, 43, Fleet Street; Seeley and Son, Fleet Street; Mr. John Miller, No. 5, New Bridge Street; Messrs. J. and A. Arch, 61, Cornhill; Mr. Westley, 10, Stationers' Court; Mr. Kershaw, 14, City Road; Mr. Joseph Bunnell, Islington. Also by the following Bankers:—Messrs. Hankey and Co. 7, Fenchurch Street; Sir John Perring, Shaw, Barber, and Co. Cornhill; Sir Peter Pole, Free, Down, and Scott, Bartholomew Lane; Messrs. Drummond, Charing Cross; and Messrs. Lees, Brassey, Farr, and Lee, Lombard Street.

N. B. Elementary tracts and books suitable for libraries will be thankfully accepted, and faithfully forwarded to Canada, if sent to the care of either of the above mentioned Booksellers.

All to whom this Paper may be sent are respectfully requested to lend their aid in promoting this important design, remembering the words of our Lord, " *That it is more blessed to give than receive.*"